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Letter dated 17 August 2006 from the Acting Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached sixth report of Cyprus submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001), as well as Cyprus's response to resolution 1624 (2005) (see annex). I would be grateful if you could arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Adamantios Th. **Vassilakis**
Acting Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

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Annex

Letter dated 28 July 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith the sixth report of the Republic of Cyprus to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, pursuant to your letter dated 21 April 2006 (see enclosure).

(Signed) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**

Enclosure*

Sixth report of the Republic of Cyprus submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)

1. Implementation measures

1.1 A copy of Law No.18(III) of 2005 amending the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (Ratification and Other Provisions) Law 2001, is herewith attached as Annex I. Law No.18 (III) / 2005 amends the Law of 2001, by deleting Article 9, which excluded the application of its provisions to Cypriot citizens if they commit an offence in Cyprus.

1.2 The procedures to implement relevant EC Regulations were already in place upon the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Union. Regarding the freezing of assets of terrorists and terrorist enterprises, as stipulated by UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001), it is noted that Council Regulation (EC) No.2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and enterprises, creates a mechanism similar to that of EC Regulation No.881/2002 (in relation to UNSC 1267), by instituting an obligation to freeze the assets of natural or legal persons, groups or enterprises referred to in UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001).

1.3 The "Third Round Detailed Assessment Report on Cyprus on Anti-Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism", which was adopted by the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures (MONEYVAL) of the Council of Europe, at its 18th Plenary Meeting (31 January – 3 February 2006), is herewith attached as Annex II. Also attached as Annex III the Larnaca Action Plan on Interfaith Understanding and Cooperation for a Peaceful World.

* Annexes are on file with the Secretariat and are available for consultation.

2. Implementation of resolution 1624 (2005)

Paragraph 1

2.1 What measures does Cyprus have in place to prohibit by law and to prevent incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts? What further steps, if any, are under consideration?

Cyprus legislation for anti-terrorist action consists of a number of legislative texts which comprehensively cover the issue of terrorism:

(i) A series of International Conventions, which the Republic of Cyprus has ratified by law and embodied in the domestic legal order. These Conventions include offences which constitute a terrorist act or activity *per se*. The following Conventions have been ratified:

(a) The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Ratification Law 30/1972)

(b) The Convention on Offences and Certain other Acts committed on Board Aircraft (Ratification Law 31/1972)

(c) The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (Ratification Law 37/1973)

(d) The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents (Ratification Law 63/1975)

(e) The European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (Ratification Law 5/1979)

(f) The International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages (Ratification Law 244/1990)

(g) The Convention of the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material – Vienna 03/03/1980 (Ratification and Other Provisions Law 3(III)/1998)

(h) The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation of 1988 and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf of 1988 – Rome 10/03/1988 (Ratification Law 17(III)/1999)

(i) The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (Ratification Law 19(III)/2000)

(j) The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism – New York 10/01/2000 (Ratification Law 29(III)/2001)

(k) The Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Security International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, (Ratification Law 33(III)/2001)

(l) The Convention on the Making of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (Ratification Law 19(III)/2002)

(m) The Protocol amending the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, (Ratification Law 18(III)/2004)

(ii) A series of other legislative texts, which either supplement the provisions of the aforementioned Conventions or include provisions for some criminal acts, which, although do not constitute a terrorist offence *per se*, can be considered to be terrorist acts in cases where such acts promote or are motivated by terrorism. Such legislation includes:

(a) the Extradition of Fugitives Law 97/1970

(b) the Suppression of Crime Law 3(I)/1995

(c) the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities Laws of 1996 - 2004

(d) the Protection of the Privacy of Telecommunications Law 92(I)/1996

(e) the Refugee Law 6(I)/2000

(f) the Protection of Witnesses Law 95(I)/2001

(g) the International Cooperation in Criminal Matters Law 23(I)/2001

(h) the European Arrest Warrant Law 133(I)/2004

(i) the Law providing for the Acquisition, Possession, Transfer and Import of Firearms and Non-firearms and Related Issues, Law 113(I)/2004

Furthermore, the domestic Penal Code, Cap 154, even though, as in almost all countries, does not provide for a definition of "terrorism", contains a number of provisions, which could be applied to acts of terrorism, such as *section 56: Membership of an unlawful association, section 57: Advocating and encouraging unlawful association, section 58: Giving or soliciting contributions for an unlawful association, section 80: Carrying arms to terrorise, section 91: Threatening violence* and *section 92: Possessing firearms with intent to injure*.

In addition, legal work is currently in progress for an Anti-terrorist Code which will embody *inter alia* the European Council Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism (L.244 (I)/2004, 13/06/2002). The definition of terrorist offences

employed ("act of terrorism") will be based on this Decision, while a series of other offences (e.g. robbery or kidnapping), which do not constitute terrorist offences *per se*, will also be considered terrorist offences, if combined with an act of terrorism. The overall attempt of this Anti-terrorist Code is the creation of a comprehensive piece of legislation in the area of terrorism. Within the European Council Framework Decision, "act of terrorism" means "the use or threat of action where –

(a) (i) the action falls within subsection (b);

(ii) the use or threat is designed to influence a Government or an international organization or to intimidate the public or a section of the public and it includes the serious destabilization or destruction of the fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures of any country or international organization; and

(iii) the use or threat is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.

(b) action falls within this subsection if it –

(i) involves serious violence against a person;

(ii) involves serious damage to property;

(iii) endangers a person's life, other than that of the person committing the action;

(iv) creates a serious risk to the health or safety of the public or a section of the public; or

(v) is designed seriously to interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system."

Cyprus has adopted the Council Common Position of 27 May 2002 concerning restrictive measures against Usama Bin Laden, members of the Al-Qaida organisation and the Taliban and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with them. To that end, a special Government order was adopted. This order governs the sanctions concerning the freezing of funds, visa bans and the embargo on supply, sale or transfer of arms, as well as on technical advice, assistance or training related to military activities imposed by UNSCR 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000).

According to the Courts of Justice Law (14/60), the Assize Court is the competent court to adjudicate terrorist crimes. Article 20(1) of this Law, provides for the cases that the Assize Court has jurisdiction to adjudicate terrorist offences committed abroad. In addition, Section 5(1) of the Penal Code (Cap 154) provides for the extension of the jurisdiction of Cyprus criminal courts outside Cyprus: they have competence to adjudicate any offence provided for in this Code, if such an offence is committed abroad by a Cypriot citizen whilst in the service of the Republic of Cyprus, or if such an offence is punishable by a penalty of imprisonment exceeding two years and is also punishable by the law

of the country in which it has been committed. Thus, Cyprus Courts have jurisdiction to adjudicate such an offence when it is classified as a terrorist offence. Additionally, paragraph (e) of Section 5(1) of the Penal Code provides that Cyprus Courts have jurisdiction to adjudicate the offence of treason, piracy or an offence against the safety and the constitutional order of the Republic of Cyprus, even in cases where such an offence has been committed abroad by any person. Apart from this, the extension of the jurisdiction of Cyprus Courts outside Cyprus is also provided for in a series of Conventions, which the Republic of Cyprus has signed and ratified, such as the Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (Ratification Law 19 (III), 2000). Article 5 of the aforementioned Law, in combination with Article 6 (1) and (2) of the Convention, establish the jurisdiction of Cyprus Courts to adjudicate the offences provided for in Article 2 of the Convention, in cases where these offences are committed abroad by a Cypriot citizen or against a Cypriot citizen, under certain circumstances.

Furthermore, the Anti-terrorist Code which is being prepared, includes specific provisions for the application of this Code to the prevention, investigation and prosecution of a terrorist offence, as such an offence is defined in the context of the Code and which was committed abroad-

(i) by a Cypriot citizen or for the benefit of a legal entity which is located in Cyprus, or

(ii) by a Cypriot citizen, whilst in the service of the Republic of Cyprus.

Efforts to strengthen the legal system in the fight against terrorism are continuous, both at national and international level. As has been mentioned, at the national level, apart from the existing relevant legislative texts, a new Anti-terrorist Code is being prepared, whereas at international level, Cyprus is a contracting party not only to bilateral, but also to a series of multilateral Conventions related to the fight against terrorism.

After the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, specific provisions against the financing of terrorism have been introduced.

In November 2001, the Parliament of Cyprus ratified the United Nations Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (Law 29(III)/2001).

With the provisions of the ratification law, the offences prescribed in the Convention are considered to be predicated offences. For the purposes of the anti-money laundering legislation, the relevant provisions of this law apply directly to the financing of terrorism.

Consequently, Banks and other financial institutions are required to report to the Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS, the F.I.U. of Cyprus), which functions under the auspices of the Attorney General, their suspicions on transactions related to the financing of terrorist acts. All relevant provisions of the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities Law, on freezing and confiscation orders, are applicable in such cases. Moreover, MOKAS can

exchange information with its counterparts in the area of the financing of terrorism.

Furthermore, the Central Bank of Cyprus, based on relevant decisions of the Council of Ministers, with the advice of the Attorney General, carries out or orders other banks to carry out administrative inquiries in order to identify and freeze terrorist assets, to implement United Nations sanctions with regards to commercial and financial transactions and assets and to enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions and the Common Positions of the European Union.

On 1 November 2002, MOKAS issued new Guidance Notes to all Banking Institutions in Cyprus, informing them of its new tasks and powers. These were assigned under the ratification law of the United Nations Convention on the Financing of Terrorism. MOKAS also informed Banking Institutions of their obligation to report to the Unit suspicious transactions related to the financing of terrorism.

It should be noted that in cases of suspicion for illegal activities concerning the financing of terrorism, the Police and MOKAS have the competence to investigate, with due diligence to the rule of law.

Furthermore, the Eight Special Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Terrorist Financing are fully implemented in Cyprus.

Using its powers under the anti-money laundering legislation, namely the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities Law (1996) MOKAS may apply to the Court and obtain freezing or restraining orders on any assets related to terrorist acts.

With regards to CBRN terrorism, due to the small size of the country, the assessed low risk for Cyprus and the limited human resources available, the establishment of a separate body is not considered a priority. However, any information related to CBRN terrorism will be dealt with using the existing mechanisms.

Moreover, the Cyprus Department of Customs and Excise in order to become more effective in its control of movements of sensitive items and dual-use goods and in order to combat illicit trafficking of nuclear material and other radioactive substances, has recently set up a special anti-smuggling team based in Limassol Port with the following main objectives:

- The establishment of effective customs controls over cargo transiting Limassol Port in order to prevent its use for smuggling and terrorist activities.
- Anti-terrorist and anti-smuggling actions on all inbound and outbound cargo, vessels and passenger ships calling at Limassol Port.
- The detection of materials (nuclear, chemical, biological) that can be used in the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction.

With regards to the area of CBRN terrorism, Cyprus has ratified a series of relevant Conventions:

(i) The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (Ratification Law 3(III)/1998)

(ii) The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (Ratification Law 19(III)/2000)

(iii) The Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection (Ratification Law 19(III)/2002)

Furthermore, the Anti-terrorist Code, which is under preparation, also includes provisions related to the subject. It includes provisions which penalize the supply of explosives for the purposes of terrorism; the injuring of persons by explosive substances, if combined with an act of terrorism; the attempt to injure by explosive substances; the destruction of property by explosives, if combined with an act of terrorism; and the attempt to destroy property by explosives. In addition, the aforementioned Conventions are also embodied in the Anti-terrorist Code.

In the Republic of Cyprus the following Ministries and bodies are involved in the fight against terrorism:

- The Ministry of Justice and Public Order (particularly the Police)
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its Diplomatic Missions and particularly the United Nations and European Union Missions
- The Ministry of Interior and specifically the Department of Population Archives and Migration
- The Ministry of Finance and specifically the Customs Department
- The Law Office of the Republic (including the Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS) and the Counter-terrorism Coordinating Body)
- The Diplomatic Office of the President of the Republic, in particular the Central Information Service.

The Ministry of Justice and Public Order bears the overall responsibility for the fight against terrorism.

In order to enhance the coordination between all bodies involved in issues related to terrorism and the financing of terrorism, the Council of Ministers decided to create a special unit named "Counter-terrorism Coordinating Body". Co-ordination meetings are held once a month and additionally whenever it is deemed necessary.

The Counter-terrorism Coordinating Body is a permanent body. Besides co-ordinating the activities of the relevant Ministries / Departments, it suggests measures to be adopted. It is made up of representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order, the Police, the Law Office of the Republic (including the Unit for Combating Money Laundering), the Customs Department, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Central Information Service. It is chaired by the Deputy Attorney-General.

The Criminal Procedure Law (Cap. 155) does not make a distinction between the procedure to be followed for suspected terrorists and that to be followed for other suspected criminal offenders. However, if the offence is subject to punishment by a penalty of imprisonment not exceeding five years, the competent court for the trial of the case is the District Court. Criminal offences, which are punishable by a penalty of imprisonment exceeding five years are, according to the Courts of Justice Law (Law 14/60), are subject to the jurisdiction of the Assize Court. Given the fact that penalties for terrorist offences are significantly more severe than penalties provided for other criminal offences and always result in a punishment exceeding the penalty of five years imprisonment, the Assize Court is the competent court for the trial of such offences.

According to the Constitution, it is at the discretion of the Attorney General to instigate and conduct any proceedings for criminal offences when he/she deems this to be in the public interest. These discretionary powers are exercised by competent counsels and public prosecutors. The definition of the "competent prosecution authority" is based on the gravity of the criminal offence under examination and the penalty to which such offence is subject and, consequently, on the court which is competent to adjudicate the offence.

With regards to the Law Enforcement Authority, the following Services are responsible for the fight against terrorism:

- The Office for Combating Terrorism

  After 11 September 2001 and with Cyprus being at the time a prospective member of the EU, extensive obligations and needs have arisen in the field of combating terrorism. In order to meet these new challenges, the Office for Combating Terrorism of Department (C') was established at the Police Headquarters. Its duties include:

  - Collecting information related to terrorist groups, entities or organizations

  - Reporting to the Chief of Police on whether the European Union's Common Positions and / or Resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations, and / or other international instruments in the field of terrorism are indeed implemented by Cyprus Authorities

  - Cooperating with other competent agencies, i.e. Central Information Service, Interpol, Europol

- Keeping an updated database on Terrorism which includes terrorist groups, entities, organizations and terrorist acts which take place worldwide.

- **The Central Information Service**

The Central Information Service maintains a department specialising solely in the collection and evaluation of information related to terrorism.

The Central Information Service forms part of the Cyprus Police. Its members belong to the Cyprus Police and are accountable for administrative matters to the Chief of Police and for operational matters to the President of the Republic of Cyprus. Therefore, the members of the Central Information Service have the same duties / responsibilities / powers and use the same techniques in the field of investigation as all other Police Officers.

It has to be clarified that the Central Information Service, which is the sole Intelligence Service in the country, is a Police Unit and in pursuance of a Decision of the Council of Ministers, members of the Central Information Service act independently in the field of intelligence and they are accountable directly to the President of the Republic.

The Central Information Service:

- Participates in operations and contributes to the investigation of cases related to terrorist activities.
- Develops sources within suspected groups / organisations and other sensitive sectors.
- Collects intelligence.
- Analyses and disseminates information.
- Briefs the Police Headquarters or other Government Agencies when it is deemed necessary.
- Cooperates with the Police Headquarters and other Government Agencies that deal with terrorism.
- Cooperates with the Secret Services of member states of the European Union or third countries in exchanging and investigating information.

- **The Crime Investigation Department**

The Crime Investigation Department consists of offices / sectors on the following aspects:

- Investigations
- Information analysis
- Prosecution (Legal vetting of the investigation before submission of the file to the Law Office of the Republic)
- Crime Intelligence
- Statistics and research
- Bomb experts
- Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Its main duty is the investigation of crimes including cases of terrorism and the indictment of suspects in a court of law.

- **Aliens and Immigration Unit**

The main competences of this Unit are:

- Control of arrivals and departures at the airports and ports of Cyprus
- Passport checks and visas
- Surveillance of the activities of suspected foreigners
- Arrest and deportation of illegal foreigners
- Handling of illegal immigrants

- **Special Anti-terrorist Squad of the Mobile Immediate Action Unit**

The Squad includes assault teams, support teams, snipers, bomb experts, negotiators and in general has the structure of a well-manned and equipped Anti-Terrorist Squad in accordance with European and U.S.A. standards. Among its duties is the suppression and extermination of terrorist activities. Its personnel is very well trained and is equipped with the latest technology.

- **Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS)**

This Unit operates under the auspices of the Attorney General and it accommodates a special department responsible for investigating and acting upon criminal acts, as derived from the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

According to the existing rules and procedures, the exchange of information between the Police, as the main Law Enforcement Authority and the Central

Information Service is carried out, to the extent deemed necessary, by the Chief of Police and by the Director of the Central Information Service, who is appointed by the President of the Republic.

In practice, however, all information gathered by both agencies concerning possible terrorist activities in Cyprus, are immediately passed on to the Assistant Chief of Police (Operations), who decides on the actions to be taken. Therefore, in practice, coordination for all possible terrorist activities in Cyprus is carried out by the Assistant Chief of Police (Operations).

The Assistant Chief of Police (Operations) meets regularly with the competent authorities for the exchange of information and gives instructions for the creation of ad hoc committees when he/she deems this appropriate, i.e. ad hoc committee for the Olympic Games Security.

2.2 **What measures does Cyprus take to deny safe haven to any persons with respect to whom there is credible and relevant information giving serious reasons for considering that they have been guilty of incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts?**

The Aliens and Immigration Unit, *inter alia* place in the "stop-list", immigrants that are considered suspects by other Services of the Cyprus Police, including the Office for Combating Terrorism. The "stop-list" is the "list" which contains the particulars of any person who is not allowed to enter/leave Cyprus.

Apart from the stop-list, a "watch-list" is also kept in which suspects that should be put under surveillance as soon as they enter the Republic of Cyprus are placed.

The stop-list as well as the watch-list information is channelled by the Aliens and Immigration Unit to all relevant Services of the Police.

Paragraph 2

2.3 **How does Cyprus cooperate with other States in strengthening the security of its international borders with a view to preventing those guilty of incitement to commit a terrorist act or acts from entering their territory, including by combating fraudulent travel documents and, to the extent attainable, by enhancing terrorist screening and passenger security procedures?**

Information Exchange

The Office for Combating Terrorism under the European Union and International Police Cooperation Directorate of the Cyprus Police, the Central Information Service as well as the offices of Interpol and Europol of the Cyprus Police, cooperate closely with the respective Services of other countries in the universal

effort to combat terrorism. This is accomplished through the exchange of information and the adoption of numerous necessary measures.

Concerning the exchange of information and data, Cyprus has ratified both the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and its Protocol (Law 25(III)/2004) as well as the Convention relating to Extradition between the Member States of the European Union (Law 11(III)/2004). Both Conventions include provisions for the cooperation between the competent authorities of the Member States in order to render their efforts to fight crime more effective and, in this respect, they include provisions for the exchange of information and other data related to offences and offenders (including terrorist offences and terrorists). In addition, the Convention on Cybercrime provides for the widest possible cooperation between Member States in criminal matters and to the widest extent possible "for the purposes of investigations or proceedings concerning criminal offences related to computer systems and data or for the collection of evidence in electronic form of a criminal offence."(Article 23). Similar provisions (related to the mutual cooperation and assistance between States) can be found in Article 8 of the Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, which Cyprus has ratified (Law 5/1979).

Cyprus has adopted the Council Common Position on Combating Terrorism (2001/930/CFSP, 27/12/2001). Article 5 of the Common Position provides for steps to be taken to prevent the commission of terrorist acts, including the provision of early warning among Member States or between Member States and third States by exchange of information, via a Decision of the Council of Ministers (Decision no 59 844, 14/04/2004).

The Republic of Cyprus has concluded the following bilateral agreements with Member States of the European Union:

1. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Poland in Safeguarding Security and Public Order, Preventing and Investigating Crime (26/10/1992) and Agreement in Co-operation in Combating Organized Crime and other Forms of Crime (Ratification Law 34(III)/2005)

2. Agreement between the Ministry of Justice and Public Order of Cyprus and the Ministry of Public Order of Greece on Co-operation in Security Matters (Nicosia, 11/12/1993)

3. Agreement between Cyprus and Hungary on Combating Terrorism, Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (Nicosia, 16/09/1991) and its additional Protocol signed on 28th September 1992 and Agreement between Cyprus and Hungary on Combating Terrorism, Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (Budapest, 13/06/1996)

4. Agreement on Co-operation between the Ministry of Interior of Cyprus and the Federal Ministry of Interior of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, (Prague, 07/12/1992) which remains in force between Cyprus and the Czech Republic in accordance with the Exchange of Letters (19/01/1999)

5. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Malta in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (17/09/1999) (Ratification Law 15(VII)/1999)

6. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Ireland in Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Money Laundering, Organized Crime, Trafficking in Persons, Terrorism and other Serious Crime (08/03/2002) (Ratification Law 34(III)/2002)

7. Co-operation Agreement for Combating Terrorism, Organized Crime and Drug Smuggling (15/03/1991) and Agreement between Cyprus and Italy on Co-operation in the fight against organized crime and other forms of Crime (28/06/2002) (Ratification Law 22 (III)/2003)

8. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Slovenia in the Fight Against Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (04/12/2002) (Ratification Law 28(III)/2003)

9. Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Cyprus and the United Kingdom concerning the Implementation of the Protocol on the sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia in Cyprus in so far as it concerns Illegal Migrants and Asylum Seekers (Nicosia, 20/02/2003)

10. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Estonia in Combating Organized Crime and other forms of Crime (08/01/2004) (Ratification Law 13(III)/2004)

11. Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and Slovakia on Co-operation in Combating Organized Crime, Terrorism, Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances as well as other types of crime (26/02/2004) (Ratification Law 5(III)/2005)

12. Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Cyprus and Austria in the field of Justice and Home Affairs (08/10/2004). The Memorandum contains specific provision on the exchange of information and documentation

13. Agreement on Co-operation between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of France on security matters (04/03/2005) (Ratification Law 49(III)/2005)

14. Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Latvia on Co-operation in Combating Terrorism, Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime (11/04/2005) (Ratification Law 48(III)/2005)

Moreover, the Republic of Cyprus is in the process of concluding bilateral cooperation agreements in the same context with Germany, Czech Republic, Poland (Mutual Protection of Classified Information) and Spain.

In addition,

15. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and the European Police Office (Europol) (04/07/2003), Ratification Law 36 (III)/2003.

The Republic of Cyprus has concluded the following bilateral agreements with the following EU acceding countries:

1. Agreement between Cyprus and Romania on Co-operation in the Fight Against International Crime (07/06/1995) (Ratification Law 16(VII)/1995)

2. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Bulgaria in the Fight Against Cross-Border Organised Crime, Terrorism, Trafficking in Human Beings and Illicit Drug Trafficking (02/12/2003) (Ratification Law 48(III)/2004).

The Republic of Cyprus has concluded, the following bilateral agreements with Third Countries:

1. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Egypt on Security Matters (07/06/1994)

2. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and China on Public Security Matters (18/10/1994)

3. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Israel in Combating Illicit Trafficking and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and Terrorism and other Serious Crimes (09/01/1995)

4. Co-operation Agreement between the Ministry of Interior of Cyprus and the Ministry of Interior of the USSR for Combating Crime (25/04/1990). Note: In force in accordance with the Protocol between Cyprus and the Russian Federation on the Inventory of Bilateral Agreements (11/10/2000)

5. Agreement of Co-operation between Cyprus and Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Combating the Illicit Use of and the Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and Organized Crime (15/05/2001)

6. Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Cyprus and the Islamic Republic of Iran on Co-operation in the Fight Against the Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Instances (03/07/2002)

7. Agreement between the Ministries of the Interior of Cyprus and the Syrian Arab Republic in the fields of Crime and Illicit Trafficking and Smuggling of Drugs (04/04/1989). Protocol for Co-operation in the Field of Security (14/05/1991) and the Protocol amending the aforementioned Protocol (11/11/2003). Note: The last Protocol amends Article 8 of the Protocol of May 1991, making necessary a visa requirement prior to the entry or passing through the territory of the other contracting party

8. Agreement on Co-operation between Cyprus and Cuba in the Fight Against the Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (16/11/2000, entered into force 24/07/2003)

9 Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Lebanon on Co-operating in Combating the Illicit Use of and Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Organized Crime (19/07/2002, Ratification Law 5(III)/2004) and Exchange of Notes relating to Articles 5 and 9 of the Agreement of 19 July 2002 Nicosia, 30/05/2003, 23/09/2003, Ratification Law 5(III)/2004).

Similar agreements are at the negotiation stage with Armenia, India, Ukraine, Mexico, South Africa and Uzbekistan.

The Republic of Cyprus has adopted the Common Position of the Council of the European Union of 27th December 2001 on Combating Terrorism (2001/930/CFSP).

In addition, a bilateral Agreement between the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the U.S.A. has also been concluded. It refers to issues related to U.S. military and civilian personnel of the U.S. Department of Defence who may be present in the Republic of Cyprus in connection with cooperative efforts in response to terrorism, humanitarian assistance and other agreed activities.

A bilateral Treaty named "Treaty between the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the Government of the United States of America in Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters" has been concluded, which has been ratified by the Parliament of Cyprus (Law 20(III)/2002, 28/6/2002.)

Moreover, the Cypriot Financial Investigation Unit (MOKAS) co-operates closely with its counterpart FinCEN of the USA in the area of the exchange of information in relation to terrorist financing.

Close co-operation between Cyprus and the above countries will continue at all appropriate levels and will involve the exchange of both strategic and operational information, specialist knowledge, strategic intelligence, crime prevention methods, participation in training activities, the provision of advice and support in investigations and regular contacts between Cyprus and the above mentioned countries, at all appropriate levels. Cyprus will continue participating in all the efforts and processes towards preventing and combating terrorism.

The Republic of Cyprus has ratified the following Convention and Protocols in relation to the establishment of the European Police Service (Europol):

1. Law ratifying the Convention on the Establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention) and the Protocol on the Interpretation of the Convention by the European Court of Justice (Ratification Law 38(III)/2002)

2. Law ratifying the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of Europol, of its Members, its Acting Directors and its Employees (Ratification Law 14 (III)/2003)

3. Law ratifying the Protocol drawn up on the basis of Article 43(1) of the Europol Convention on the Establishment of the European Police Office (Europol Convention) amending Article 2 and the Annex of the Convention (Ratification Law 19(III)/2003)

4. Law ratifying the Protocol amending the Convention on the Establishment of a European Police Office (Europol Convention) and the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of Europol, the Members of its Organs, the Deputy Directors and the Employees of Europol (Ratification Law 39(III)/2003)

The Cyprus Government is committed to developing even further co-operation with Police Services of other countries and international organizations dealing with the combating of crime, including terrorism.

Close cooperation is also sustained with Interpol, the FBI and Liaison Officers of other countries for the collection and exchange of information in relation to various forms of crime.

As from September 2001, a Liaison Officer has been seconded to The Hague, The Netherlands, to act as a Liaison Officer of the Cyprus Police with Europol. This aims at the improvement of police co-operation among the member states in combating terrorism, illegal drug trafficking and other forms of serious international crime.

In addition, from December 2003, a Liaison Officer has been seconded to Lyon France, to act as a Liaison Officer of the Cyprus Police with Interpol.

Co-operation with other Member States, applicant countries and third countries has also been strengthened with the exchange of information between the Unit for Combating Money Laundering (MOKAS) and its foreign counterparts which have been designated as the competent Authorities in the area of financing terrorism.

2.4 What international efforts is Cyprus participating in or considering participating in/initiating in order to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilisations in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures.

As part of its continued efforts to enhance dialogue and understanding amongst religions and civilizations, Cyprus volunteered to organise, in co-operation with Malaysia, the Second ASEM Interfaith Dialogue. The overall theme of the Dialogue, which took place in Larnaca, Cyprus on 3 – 5 July 2006, was *Interfaith Understanding and Cooperation for a Peaceful World*. It brought together almost

200 delegates from over 40 countries and international organisations. The delegates – politicians, diplomats, journalists and representatives of faith communities – had the opportunity to participate in Plenary Sessions and three Working Groups during which they exchanged ideas and experiences. The working groups dealt with the following issues:

i. Interfaith Understanding;
ii. Role of Media in Promoting Interfaith Dialogue;
iii. Religion and Multiethnic Societies.

Ideas and proposals discussed in these groups were reflected in the Larnaca Action Plan which was adopted by the Plenary. It features practical and realistic aims whose implementation Cyprus, together with Malaysia, has undertaken to coordinate. Work towards this direction is already under way. The measures included in the Action Plan cannot but contribute towards preventing the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures.

A copy of the Larnaca Action Plan is attached.

2.6 What is Cyprus doing to ensure that any measures taken to implement paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of resolution 1624 (2005) comply with all of its obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law, and humanitarian law?

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus pays due attention and fully respects the rule of law and all legal obligations, both international and domestic, concerning international human rights law, refugee law, and humanitarian law. Cyprus is a contracting member to all major international human rights instruments.